

STATEMENT BY LABORATORY DIRECTOR JOHN BROWNE

John Gordon, National Nuclear Security Administration director, issued a statement to all NNSA employees in response to President Bush's announcement proposing creation of a Department of Homeland Security.

Obviously, it is not yet clear what the impacts to Los Alamos will be. We will share information with you as it becomes available. In that connection, I have included below Sen. Pete Domenici's statement expressing confidence that the New Mexico-based laboratories will have important roles to play in the goals of this new department.

I fully and enthusiastically share the views expressed by General Gordon and Sen. Domenici and agree with their description of the president's proposal as a bold action. Laboratory programs in stockpile stewardship and threat reduction are vitally important to the nation, including homeland security. The talents, programs, and capabilities of Los Alamos National Laboratory and its workforce offer significant opportunity to support homeland security. I hope you will join me in demonstrating our support for the cause of homeland security and for the president's proposed new department.

STATEMENT BY NNSA ADMINISTRATOR JOHN GORDON

Last night the president made a bold proposal to improve the way in which the government responds to threats against the United States by creating a cabinet-level Department of Homeland Security. Centralizing homeland security responsibility in one department will improve our ability to respond to weapons of mass destruction by leveraging resources currently spread across the government.

Under the proposal, some NNSA programs, facilities and assets would be transferred to this new department.

The importance of this mission requires that we give the president our full support.

NNSA's scientists, engineers and program managers have worked ably to support the fight against terrorism, both before [Sept. 11, 2001] and after. I am proud of our role and our accomplishments in this arena and fully expect that countering weapons of mass destruction and supporting homeland defense efforts will remain an important element of NNSA's mission. Significant details of what is to be transferred, and how future reporting channels will work, remain to be determined. We will try to keep you informed as this proposal and transition moves forward.

Thank you for your continued hard work in support of the nation's defense.

John A. Gordon
Administrator

STATEMENT BY SEN. PETE DOMENICI

Domenici Statement on Creation of New Homeland Security Department

Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., issued the following statement regarding President Bush's decision to seek the creation of a cabinet-level Department of Homeland Security to better organize federal agencies and programs associated with protecting the well being of the American people.

"The American people know the world changed with the horror of [Sept. 11, 2001]. Government has to change with that new reality. The president has given us a bold plan that will force us, in government and in Congress, to move away from entrenched interests that block the best ways to make Americans less susceptible to terrorist attack.

"I talked personally with the White House this afternoon about the participation of our national labs in counter-terrorism and homeland defense. After talking with the White House, I am confident that the extraordinary expertise of our two national labs in New Mexico will be used to the fullest extent by this department. Indeed, while a long legislative road lies ahead for this proposal, I truly believe it will end up being very good for Sandia and Los Alamos. I am assured that there will be a great deal of new work, and an upgrading of facilities for our labs.

"While reorganization and change always generate concerns, our lab employees should be reassured that because of the White House confidence in their work, they will ultimately be full participants in goals of a Homeland Security Department."

Domenici says he fully expects to play a key role in the development and enactment of legislation to create this new department-through his leading positions on the Senate Budget Committee, Senate Appropriations Committee, and Energy and Natural Resources Committee.